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ONE MARYLAND

Our Public Schools are #1 in America for 5 years in a row!

January 2013



A Message from the Governor

For the fifth year in a row now, Education Week magazine has named Maryland's Public School system #1 in the country. We are #1 because of you: because of our students, parents, teachers, principals, administrators, advocates and elected officials.

This hasn't been easy. We've worked together to make the tough choices that were necessary to tackle the nearly \$2 billion structural deficit we inherited in 2007. Now, that deficit is almost totally eliminated, and we've protected our AAA bond rating. But even as we've made more cuts to state government than any administration in the history of Maryland, we've remained focused on key priorities, like investing in schools and growing jobs for middle class families.

All Marylanders should be proud. Even during tough times, and even while other states were scaling back their commitment to schools -- we've chosen to make record investments in public education. Now, because of better choices and strategic investments, we can say again: "Maryland is #1."

Thank you,
Governor O'Malley

What's Happening?



Investing in our Schools

Earlier this week, Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown visited Overlea High School in Baltimore County and announced \$336 million in school construction funding and upgrades for Maryland's public schools in the proposed FY2014 budget.



This funding continues the O'Malley-Brown Administration's commitment to modernizing and rebuilding Maryland's public schools. In addition, the funding will



AROUND MARYLAND

Baltimore County Restaurant Week

Jan. 11-27 at 40 restaurants
Lunches and dinners range from \$10.13 - \$35.13.

The Mousetrap at Vagabond Players

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Feb. 3 in Fells Point
In the dead of winter, a suspicious group of travelers is stranded in a remote guest house. A play by Agatha Christie.

28th Annual Nautical & Wildlife Art Festival

January 19-20 in Ocean City
The Shore's premier presentation of nautical & wildlife artists in residence.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration

Jan. 21 in Wye Mills
This family-friendly event at Chesapeake College will feature singing groups, speakers and praise dancers.

Paper Americana Show

Jan. 26 in Elkton
Featuring books, postcards, photographs, advertising, ephemera. \$3 admission, under 12 years free. Food for sale on premises.

For more events around Maryland, visit the [Maryland Tourism Office](#) and follow [@TravelMD](#) on Twitter.



Cast your vote in the #MDForward Contest!

create, support and leverage an estimated 8,199 jobs. \$25 million in the proposal is dedicated to improving air conditioning in schools. [Read more about our commitment to schools.](#)



Best Value Colleges

According to [College Board](#), we've done more to hold down the rising cost of tuition than any other state in the nation. [Kiplinger Magazine's](#) recent report on Best Value Colleges is yet another indicator of Maryland's commitment to making college more affordable for more of our families.

Five Maryland colleges made Kiplinger's Top 100 Best Value Colleges. [Find out which schools made the list.](#)



Marylander on the Move: Rhonda Holmes-Blankenship

Rhonda Holmes-Blankenship is the Maryland Teacher of the Year. As an English Teacher at Rising Sun High School in Cecil County, Rhonda inspires 10th and 11th grade students every day. She's also a member of the School Improvement Team, participates in professional learning communities, facilitates school and county professional development, and mentors student teachers.



Rhonda wasn't always interested in education. In fact, she even considered dropping out of school. But she credits several of her teachers for inspiring her and helping her become the first member of her family to attend college. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Towson University in 1995, and now works to inspire our next generation of leaders.



Innovation Maryland: Google Plus' Hangout

Governor O'Malley recently received a letter from the University System of Maryland's Student Government President requesting a meeting to discuss higher education and Maryland's continued commitment to affordable college. Instead of a traditional in-person meeting, we decided to expand the conversation to more students by hosting both a meeting both in-person and online.



Through Google Plus' Hangout feature we were able to stream a portion of the event and take questions from students at their colleges around Maryland. [Watch a recap of the hangout.](#)



MARYLAND TWEETS



Follow us on Twitter!

@GovernorOMalley: From the earliest days of our Admin, job creation & it's primary ingredient, education – have topped our agenda.

@LtGovBrown: Happy to announce [we're committing \\$25M](#) to provide air conditioning in Maryland's schools currently going without.

@WhipHoyer: Thanks to @GovernorOMalley & Superintendent Lowery for their commitment to ed, MD schools are #1 in the nation <http://1.usa.gov/WvkFH7>

@MSEAeducators: MSEA President Betty Weller and @GovernorOMalley congratulate MD educators & celebrate #1 ranking from Education Week. <http://bit.ly/URat1e>

@StateMaryland: Our Maryland schools were once again ranked #1 by @educationweek and [here is how we continue to succeed.](#) #Video

Hashtag of the Month: This month, use **#MDSchools** to celebrate another year of Maryland's Public Schools being ranked #1 in the nation. Thank an educator or share a story.

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